



Lord, today,  
 May the poor teach us to give.  
 May the blind teach us to see.  
 May the deaf teach us to hear.  
 May those who can't speak teach us to not be afraid to speak out against injustice.  
 May the uneducated teach us to appreciate what we have.  
 May these lessons inspire us all to act with consideration and compassion in big ways and in small.

*Stephanie Bast, Prayer concluding Communion Reflection, Opening School Mass.*

## From the Principal:

After a busy fortnight which has included - Seed Days for Years 7, 8 and 9, Information Presentations re Cyber Bullying from Dr Michael Carr-Gregg and Ms Susan McLean (former Victorian Police "cyber cop" Officer), Open Day tours and evening celebrations, SCSA Triathlon, SGS Student Leaders Workshop, Reunion of Year 12 Class of 2009 as well as the everyday continuation of classes for students and planning meetings for teachers - our Opening School Mass (thanks to Bishop Tim Costelloe, Patricia Loudon and Faith Development Team) was a memorable celebration as community for the start of our year. I am pleased to share here our Communion Reflection prepared and read by Year 12 student and Liturgy Leader, Stephanie Bast:

*This year's theme, be informed, be compassionate helps us to reflect on ourselves as people and how we relate to and with other people; in the classroom, in the school-ground, with our families and friends, and in the wider community. It gives us an opportunity to show how we can support others.*

*Being informed encourages us to know more about our world, and therefore our compassionate acts can carry more weight.*

*The thoughts of Helen Keller, who went blind and deaf at nineteen months, can help us to see the world as others do. She wrote:*

*"One day I asked a friend of mine who had just returned from a long walk in the woods what she*

*had seen. She replied: 'nothing in particular'.*

*How is this possible? I asked myself, when I, who cannot hear or see, find hundreds of things to interest me through mere touch.*

*I feel the delicate shape and design of a leaf. I pass my hand lovingly over the rough bark of a pine tree. Occasionally, if I'm lucky, I place my hand quietly on a small tree and feel the happy quiver of a bird in full song.*

*All this has convinced me of one thing: the greatest calamity that can befall people is not that they should be born blind, but rather that they should have eyes and yet fail to see."*

*If compassion is to be present in our lives, it has to be made obvious by the small, everyday things; a smile, a helping hand, a letter, a phone call, an understanding look, an unexpected gift which says "I am with you; I am thinking of you". Compassion is the kindness you give to others when no one is looking, which offers comfort. The compassionate friend is there to help another continue on the road, to live with a tiny flame of hope.*

*Through the example of others, we are encouraged to give, to offer that tiny flame of hope. Something as little as giving coins to project compassion, donating a pair of pants you no longer wear to St Vinnies or buying a pancake on Shrove Tuesday are outward signs of compassion, but hopefully we can take time to see why we are doing this. Is it for the hungry family in Belgrave? Is it for the little girl who lost everything in Haiti? Is it*



*for the grandmother who has to raise her orphaned grand-children in AIDS-affected Africa? Is it for the student in the Philippines who can't afford to get the education to become a nurse? Is it for the people of East Timor who have suffered civil unrest for so many years?*

*Nelson Mandela once said "A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination".*

Thanks again to the many families and parents who have taken the opportunities to be part of our early school year events. May we continue to work in full partnership to ensure the best of educational opportunities and formation experiences for your daughters.

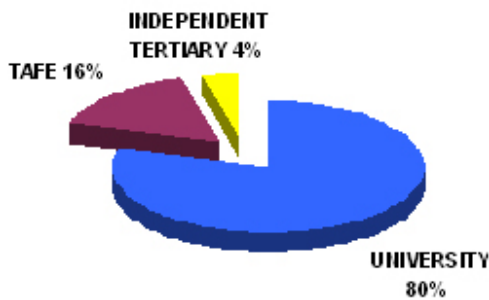
Mary Fitz-Gerald Principal

Year 12 class of 2009 reunion

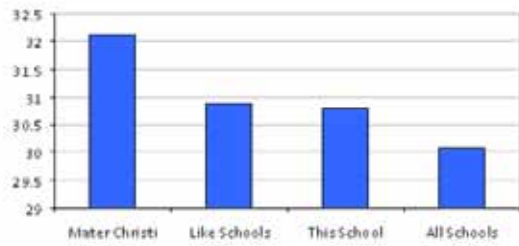


## 2009: Year 12 Results & Tertiary Placements

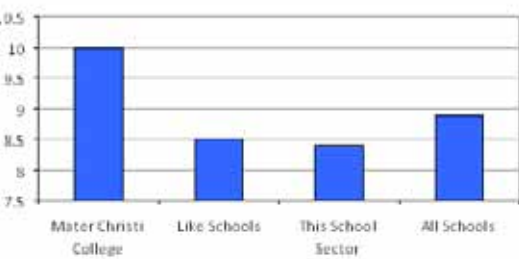
92% of Year 12 students were offered a place for tertiary study



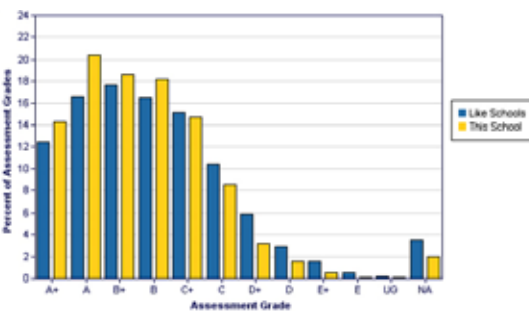
### Median Study Score



### Study Scores of 40 and above – all VCE studies



### Assessment Grades – all VCE studies



## Opening Mass

Our Opening Mass for the school year was held on Wednesday with Bishop Tim Costelloe celebrating. The mass began with the call to "Meet here with Me" (skillfully sung by Dean Snook) a prescient reminder of God's invitation to us in Lent. Bishop Costelloe went on to speak of the need to change what needed changing in our lives and acknowledge what was going well.

Our Faith and Liturgy Captains took an active role. Rhian Pospilchil and Stephanie Bast welcomed everyone. Rhian read the scripture whilst Stephanie enunciated the College theme for this year "Be Informed...Be

Compassionate" in her reflection after communion.

Music is an integral part of our celebration of Eucharist. Not only does the singing help us pray but it serves to highlight different parts of the mass and we were ably led by our singers and musicians.

We would also like acknowledge international student Mimosa Leung who provided the original drawing for this year's banner, whilst on retreat at the end of last year.

Kathleen Ward (College Chaplain) on behalf of the Faith Development Team.



## Minister Recognises Teacher Development

In December last year the College received a Certificate of Accreditation from the Minister of Education and the Director of Catholic Education. This award recognised Mater Christi as a school that has a Performance and Development Culture.

that has achieved this accreditation reflecting our recognition of the crucial role that teachers play in student learning and our commitment to professional growth.

Peter Kadar  
Director of Learning and Teaching

To qualify for this award the College needed to demonstrate that we provide a thorough induction process for new staff, that staff were using multiple sources of feedback to assess their teaching practice, that staff were completing personal professional plans and that they were accessing and involved in quality professional learning.

Mater Christi College is one of a small number of Catholic secondary schools



## Open Day 2010



## Cybersafety is a priority for your daughter

We all know that technology has revolutionized the way we work, learn and live. For the most part advances in technology have had positive influences on our lives but for some, the cyber world is a dark and threatening place

How can your daughter live safely in the cyber world?

What can you do to help her?

On Tuesday 23 February, Mater Christi College Middle School students and parents heard these two questions addressed by Dr Michael Carr-Gregg (well known Adolescent Psychologist) and Ms Susan McLean (a former policewoman of some 27 years experience and an expert in the field of cyber safety). Thank you to Janine Bauman, Head of Middle School, for her initiative in organizing this event

Dr Carr-Gregg and Ms McLean clearly articulated the positives and negatives of the cyber world. They emphasized that once users had placed an image or message on sites such as MySpace and Facebook it was anything but their own...there was no control over where it went or who accessed it and it could never be retracted. A digital footprint is there forever. It is therefore essential that all use is responsible, not used to bully or humiliate others and within legal limits.

Some important definitions:

Cyberbullying... any harassment, insult, humiliation that occurs through electronic mediums such as email, mobile phones, social networking sites, instant messaging programs, chat rooms, websites and through the playing of online games.

Sexting... sending explicit messages via a mobile phone or other electronic device. It is against the law to manufacture, possess or transmit such images and messages. All people over the age of 10 years are subject to penalties under pornography laws if they are involved in sexting.

What can parents do at home? Know where your child is in cyberspace

How?

- No internet or mobile phone in your child's bedroom
- Have a family "on-line" contract
- Filtering is important but the most effective filter is parental supervision
- Make sure you know your child's password and practice "shoulder surfing"
- Ensure that your child does not disclose any personal information and only adds people to her social networking site that she knows in real life

Some sites that may be helpful if you or your children are experiencing some negative influences from the cyber world are:

[www.moodgym.anu.edu.au](http://www.moodgym.anu.edu.au)  
[www.reachoutcentral.com.au](http://www.reachoutcentral.com.au)  
[www.youthbeyondblue.com](http://www.youthbeyondblue.com)  
[www.k9webprotection.com](http://www.k9webprotection.com)

Further information will be sent to Middle School parents at the end of term with the Term 1 Progress Reports.

All parents of new Middle School students were also supplied with the "Keeping Them Safe" booklets on this night. These booklets provide further strategies and resources for parents to support their daughters through the adolescent years. For those Year 7 parents who did not attend on 23 February, the booklets will be available at the MYP Information Night on 18 March. New students in Years 8 and 9 who have not received the booklets can contact Ms Bauman for their copy.

Early in Term 2 Ms McLean will return to Mater Christi to speak with Senior School students.

Mary Close Deputy Principal - Welfare

## Triathlon Triumph

Last week, fourteen enthusiastic students had a very early start, leaving school at 6am, to compete in the SCSA Triathlon in Geelong.

We competed against five other schools, and had some outstanding results. Congratulations to Bree Warren, for her fantastic efforts on the day winning the gold medal in the Junior Division. Well done also

to Cassandra Kay who placed 9th in the junior section and to Amelia Finnegan, finishing 5th in the intermediate section. All of the girls put in huge efforts in this demanding and rewarding sport. We would like to thank everyone for their participation on the day and for their training leading up to the event.

Erin Hunt AFL Trainee

## "Big Sister, Little Sister"

Last week, Year 7 and 9 girls participated in a "Big Sister, Little Sister" experience. The event involved a liturgy facilitated by our College Chaplin and Core Group Representatives with a focus on friendship, connectedness, respect and the importance of being 'informed and compassionate'. Girls were then involved in a series of initiative activities culminating in the formation of 'Big Sister, Little Sister' buddies.

All Middle School students then attended a presentation on 'Cyber Safety' led by Susan McLean. Details of Susan's presentation are in the item from Mary Close in this Newsletter.

Janine Bauman  
Head of Middle School



## Environment News

### Schools Clean up Australia Day

Every year hundreds of thousands of Australians clean up their local environment by collecting and removing rubbish on Clean Up Australia Day. This year is Clean Up Australia's 20th Anniversary and they are asking people to help make this the best Clean Up Australia Day ever - by picking up JUST 1 piece of rubbish. If every Australian picked up just one piece of rubbish (22 million pieces), this year's Clean Up Australia Day would be 10 times more successful than ever!

Mater Christi students will again participate in cleaning up our little part of Australia around the school grounds on Friday March 5th for Schools Clean Up Australia Day.

Clean Up Australia Day is also the perfect opportunity for everyone to come together and help clear our local parks, and waterways and to think about how we can reduce our impact on the environment.

Get a group together on Sunday March 7th and lend a helping hand to clean up our environment. Check out [www.cleanup.org.au](http://www.cleanup.org.au) to find your local clean up area.

Katrina Trost  
Environment Co-ordinator



## St John the Baptist Church

Lentern Reflection with Maria Forde

Maria is a gifted singer and songwriter who can captivate an audience with her beautiful voice and lyrics.

A: Forest Road, Ferntree Gully  
P: 9758 1029  
E: [office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)  
\$5 donation



## St Simon's Rowville Youth Mass Sun 14 Mar

St Simon's Church Taylor's Lane  
Gathering: 6 pm  
Praise & Worship: 6:15 pm followed by Mass.  
Youth over 16 invited to watch Mel Gibson's "The Passion" from 7:30 followed by a brief discussion.



The College has registered all students in the Maths Online program for 2010. The sponsored website offers students this engaging and interactive site to help them in Maths. The site covers a broad range of topics, and is pitched well at each level of secondary school. Students can use the site to help themselves in Maths to:

- revise old themes
- practice current topics
- extend themselves
- learn new material.

The site offers short and effective tutorials with diagrams and voice-over, worksheets and tests. Teachers and students who used this site last year were impressed by the breadth and flexibility of the program, particularly as it allows students to revise material at home. Students can simply click on a tutorial clip that will take them through the task they're working on. These are clear and succinct. Each student has been issued with a username and password to access the site. Teachers access the site to monitor their students; parents are also invited into the site to explore what their girls are doing in Maths. Just go to:

[www.mathsonline.com.au/](http://www.mathsonline.com.au/) and follow the links.

Yvonne Sanders Maths Domain



## St Paul's Primary School

Give your child the best start to schooling.

Visit and see our vibrant and engaging curriculum within a nurturing and supportive community.

We are all excited about the recent classroom refurbishments and the completion of our new Multi-purpose Hall.

Open Days 9 & 18 March at 9 -11am or at any other time by appointment.

A: 59 Moores Road, Monbulk  
P: 9756 7201  
W: [www.spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au](http://www.spmonbulk.catholic.edu.au)

## e-News coming soon

Is your email address current?  
Please notify the registrar of any changes to your contact details at [koomen\\_c@materchristi.edu.au](mailto:koomen_c@materchristi.edu.au)

## Important dates

Friday 5

Schools Clean Up Day  
World Day of Prayer

Monday 8

Labour Day holiday

Friday 12

SCSA Tennis

Sunday 14

Catholic Education Week commences

Wednesday 17

SCSA Swimming & Diving  
Year 7, 2011 interviews

Thursday 18

Introduction to MYP 7:00pm -  
Year 7 Night

**EXTENDED UNIFORM SHOP HOURS**  
**1:00pm - 7:00pm**

## Canteen Roster

Tuesday 9 March

Monique Froude

Wednesday 10

Sue Nicholas

Thursday 11

Karen Trill

Friday 12

Lisa Smith, Tina Brane

Monday 15

Angela Staffan

Tuesday 16

Pauline Gibcus

Wednesday 17

Trisha Gadsden

Thursday 18

Brenda Felton, Roula Pouloupoulas

Friday 19

Emma Carter, Julie Rankine



Contact Employment Privacy Policy Enrolment Enquiries

a good samaritan school for girls

Our College Curriculum Co-curriculum Student Services News and Events

News and Events

Check the News and Events page on the web-site [www.materchristi.edu.au](http://www.materchristi.edu.au)

